



Governor
Chris Gregoire

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MAKING CHANGES FAMILIES CAN COUNT ON

POLICY BRIEF

TRAINING FOR HIGH-PAYING LOCAL JOBS

Two years ago, Washington was just recovering from a post-9/11 recession and many Washingtonians were still out of work. Governor Gregoire immediately looked for ways to create more family-wage jobs and, since then, Washington has gained more than 154,000 jobs – growth of about 5.6 percent. Over half of these additional jobs are high-paying jobs in construction and professional services, such as employment and legal services, accounting, architecture and computer design.

Now Governor Gregoire is making strategic investments to help Washingtonians get the training and education they need to land top jobs in the new economy.

Investments in education will have far-reaching effects; higher educational achievement will result in better paying jobs, stronger communities and reduced rates of crime. Instead of exporting work and importing workers, Governor Gregoire will make sure that Washington students are well-trained with skills that are in high demand by local employers, so that we have workers that are Washington grown and businesses that are Washington owned.



MAKING COLLEGE MORE ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE

We need more of our citizens to enroll in colleges and universities to create the most highly-trained, best educated workforce in the world – and to fill the jobs that will otherwise go to students from other states and nations. That's why Governor Gregoire is freezing tuition at community and technical colleges at current rates for the next two years, and limiting annual tuition increases at regional schools and research universities. The Washington Learns Scholarship program will help low-income students and students from families in which neither parent completed a baccalaureate degree cover the costs of tuition, books and fees for up to four years.

TRAINING WORKERS FOR HIGH-DEMAND FIELDS

Employers in Washington need more qualified workers in math- and science-related high-demand fields, such as engineering, health care and construction. Governor Gregoire is investing to create more than 8,300 new spaces for students in colleges and universities, including more than 3,300 spaces in high-demand programs. The GET Ready for Math and Science Scholarship program will encourage middle and high school students to perform well in math and science, and pursue related degrees in college. Governor Gregoire will build on the "WWAMI" model and expand the WSU Nursing School in Spokane as well as the UW Schools of Medicine and Dentistry. This will fill a critical need for qualified practitioners in rural areas of the state not served by a medical school.

TRAINING WORKERS FOR LOCAL JOBS

Governor Gregoire recognizes that different industries support the economies in different parts of our state. She is identifying regional workforce needs and making sure that the education and training offered in the region is designed to meet those needs. Governor Gregoire will provide thousands of new high-demand enrollment spaces in colleges and universities, and Regional Opportunity Grants to adults willing to be trained in jobs that employers need to fill immediately. More apprenticeships at our community and technical colleges will also increase the number of journey-level people in the skilled trades to fill well-paying local jobs. By focusing on regional strengths and planning for regional needs, every part of Washington will be able to count on a thriving economy.



TURNING RESEARCH INTO PRODUCTS

Research universities can be powerful engines of economic change as well as education providers. Yet advances in research often do not translate into new products, business start-ups or jobs. Governor Gregoire will help our universities turn research ideas into commercially viable products. Increased research capacity at the University of Washington for global health projects and at Washington State University for agriculture and alternative fuel projects will provide the expertise to create new products with commercial applications in the global economy. Innovation Partnership Zones, where globally competitive companies and research institutions team up, will also drive local economies in different parts of the state with new products, skills training and local reinvestments.

DEVELOPING SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses are essential to a thriving economy, but too many of these potential employers fail because they lack good information on planning and financing. Governor Gregoire will open new Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in Grays Harbor, Kelso and Pullman, and offer additional services at all SBDCs. These centers help new businesses draft business plans and explore financing options so that they are more likely to succeed.

WASHINGTON IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

During the last two years, new jobs have been created but the network of local organizations that support business expansion and recruitment has not had the tools it needs to really promote local economies. Governor Gregoire will help bring more jobs to Washington with a focused recruitment strategy and Team Washington outreach.

Team Washington targets growing and globally competitive companies to encourage them to relocate in Washington. We will reach out to companies that are suppliers and customers of existing Washington companies. For the first time in 16 years, we will invest significantly to strengthen our local network of economic development partners. And, we will expand high-speed internet access to rural areas across the state to support business growth by promoting telecommuting and electronic commerce. Businesses will locate here knowing that we offer a supportive tax structure, qualified workers, world-class research and an unparalleled quality of life.

INVESTING IN WASHINGTON

College Access & Affordability	\$24.7 million
High-Demand Fields	\$106.6 million
Training Workers for Local Jobs	\$9.6 million
Turning Research into Products	\$19.3 million
Developing Small Business	\$0.75 million
Open for Business	\$11.9 million
Total	\$172.9 million